GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4963
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM OF MEDICINES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to encourage alternate system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether standardization and safe production of medicines from the alternate medicine sector been mooted;

(d) if so, the time frame for improvement of medicines of the alternate system;

(e) whether adequate funding is available for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the funds spent in 1999-2000 on alternate system of medicine?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4963 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2000

The term `Alternative system of Medicine` denotes a hetrogenous group ofsystems of medicine other than Modern/Western Medicine. This term includes traditional system of medicines in India viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga & Naturopathy and Homeopathy which are recognised in India under the Indian Medicine Act, 1970.In order to develop, propogate & encourage these Indian Systems of Medicine, the Govt. in 1995, established an independent Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homeopathy. This Department has formulated schemes for cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate teaching, standardisation of drugs, encouraging extra-mural research and dissemination of information. In order to ensure manufacture of quality Ayurveda, Sidhha and Unani (ASU) Drugs, the Department has notified Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) on 23.6.2000 under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945Pharmacopoeias for Drugs of each of the systems are being published in a phased manner. State Pharmacies & Drugs Testing Laboratories are proposed to be assisted financially and Private Drug Testing Laboratories are proposed to be recognised to broaden the facilities for testing Drugs.

Indian Council of Medical Research is presently carrying out a multi-centric trial on vijaysar for uncontrolled Diabetes.It also proposes to initiate National Task Force Multi-centric studies in the field of cardiovascular diseases, filariasis, beningn hyopertrophy for prostrate cancer.

Actual expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 on the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy is as under:

Plan - Rs.4904.19 lakhs
Non-Plan - Rs.4079.06 lakhs